

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DEAE-00 IO-10 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00

OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00 CU-02 FEA-01

INT-05 DLOS-03 /109 W

----- 109064

R 040745Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9399

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

CINCPAC HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #12

### 1. VISIT OF AMB VANCE (UNCLASSIFIED)

AMB SHELDON VANCE, SENIOR ADVISOR TO SECRETARY AND COORDINATOR  
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS, VISITED BURMA MARCH 26 TO 30.

AMB VANCE WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED AT SENIOR LEVEL OF GUB.

COMMENT: (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

VANCE VISIT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR  
ADDITIONAL USG-GUB COOPERATION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND TO RAISE

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WITH GUB IDEA OF STATIONING A DEA AGENT IN RANGOON.

2. NE WIN VISITS SHAN STATE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRESIDENT NE WIN IS CURRENTLY MAKING AN AS-YET-UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO SHAN STATE, INCLUDING STOPS IN LASHIO AND TACHILEK. HE LEFT RANGOON MARCH 29. VISIT WILL ALLOW HIM CHANCE TO INSPECT MILITARY SITUATION AND PERHAPS ALSO IMPROVE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT PROBLEMS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL IN AREA. IN MEANTIME, IT FORCED POSTPONEMENT OF A VISIT TO LASHIO WHICH DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD SCHEDULED FOR FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES IN RANGOON, AND PROBABLY ALSO ACCOUNTS FOR SUDDEN CLOSURE OF BORDER IN LATE MARCH BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN TACHILEK.

3. SEIZURE OF TAIWANESE FISHING VESSEL (UNCLASSIFIED)

GUB HAS ANNOUNCED SEIZURE MARCH 25 OF ANOTHER TAIWANESE FISHING TRAWLER ALLEGEDLY IN BURMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS IN GULF OF MARTABAN. CREW OF 18 HAS BEEN JAILED. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL SPECULATED VESSEL WAS SMUGGLING ARMS TO DISSIDENT GROUPS, A SUSPICION WHICH FORESHADOWS SEVERE INTERROGATION AND PROLONGED IMPRISONMENT FOR CREW. (RANGOON 836).

4. NE WIN RETURNS TO UNIFORM (UNCLASSIFIED)

AT THE MARCH 27 RESISTANCE DAY RECEPTION, HOSTED BY PRESIDENT NE WIN, HE AND ALL FORMER OFFICERS NOW SERVING IN GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS, APPEARED IN UNIFORM. GENERAL TIN OO, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF STAFF, CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE IDEA AND APPEARED TO DELIGHT IN CALLING MINISTERS OF LOWER MILITARY RANK, TO INCLUDE PRIME MINISTER, BY THEIR RANK.

COMMENT: NO GREAT SIGNIFICANCE NEED BE ATTACHED; HOWEVER, THIS IS DEPARTURE FROM LAST YEAR'S OCCASION AND OTHER EMPHASIS ON CIVILIANIZATION OF GUB.

5. TRAINING OF SENIOR BURMA MILITARY OFFICERS (UNCLASSIFIED)

CHIEF OF STAFF, GEN TIN OO, RECENTLY INFORMED DATT THAT HE WANTED TO START SENDING OFFICERS TO NATIONAL LEVEL DEFENSE SERVICE SCHOOLS IN VARIOUS (UNNAMED) COUNTRIES. HE STATED BURMA'S SENIOR OFFICERS MUST LEARN THE ARTS OF WAR AND THIS CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY BE DONE IN SENIOR SERVICE SCHOOLS.

COMMENT: BURMA'S OWN NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE DOES NOT OPERATE ON A FIXED SCHEDULE BUT ONLY AS THE NEED REQUIRES. AT PRESENT THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF (NAVY) HAS LETTER FROM US NAVY CNO  
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INVITING BURMESE NAVY TO SEND AN OFFICER TO NAVAL WAR COLLEGE IN AUGUST.

6. MORE DETAINEES RELEASED (UNCLASSIFIED)

RELEASE OF ANOTHER GROUP OF STUDENTS AND MONKS ARRESTED ON CAMPUS DURING U THANT AFFAIR IN DECEMBER BRINGS TOTAL OF SUCH RELEASES TO 3,098.

7. US/PRC RELATIONS: A GREAT LEAP FORWARD (UNCLASSIFIED)

AT LEAST A FEW COPIES OF THE GUB'S JANUARY 1975 DIPLOMATIC LIST

SEEM TO INDICATE US/PRC TIES ARE CLOSER THAN ONE MIGHT THINK.  
THROUGH A MIS-ASSEMBLING OF PAGES, HALF OF USMISSION IS LISTED  
DIRECTLY AFTER FIRST PAGE OF PRC LIST. THE FIRST PAGE OF THE US  
LISTING WITH MISSION PRINCIPALS IS MISSING ALTOGETHER.  
COMMENT: WE ARE ALL FOR DETENTE, BUT ISN'T THIS GOING A LITTLE  
TOO FAR?

8. NEW PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR (UNCLASSIFIED)  
ON MARCH 18 PRESIDENT NE WIN ACCEPTED CREDENTIALS OF MR. HAFEEZUR  
RAHMAN AS PAKISTAN'S NEW AMBASSADOR IN RANGOON.

9. AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES BEGIN DRILLING (UNCLASSIFIED)  
EXXON SPUDDDED ITS FIRST WELL 110 MILES WEST OF TAVOY THE THIRD  
WEEK OF MARCH USING SELF-PROPELLED FLOATING RIG "DISCOVERER III"  
OF OFFSHORE DRILLING SERVICES (US). CITIES SERVICE WAS SCHEDULED  
TO START DRILLING IN ANDAMAN SEA APRIL 1 WITH THE THREE-LEG  
JACK-UP RIG "TRANSWORLD 63" OF TRANSWORLD DRILLING COMPANY (US).  
COMMENT: AN EXXON REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THAT DRILLING COMMENCED  
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL OF RIG SINCE IT IS COSTING EXXON  
ABOUT \$60,000 PER DAY TO LEASE IT.  
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R 040745Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9400  
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10. UNDP ASSISTANCE FOR OFFSHORE TIN EXPLORATION (UNCLASSIFIED)  
UNDP AND GUB OFFICIALS SIGNED PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR OFFSHORE TIN  
EXPLORATION ON MARCH 21. PROJECT IS CONTINUATION OF ONE WHICH  
UNDP HAS BEEN CONDUCTING IN TENASSERIM REGION SINCE 1972.  
ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE EVALUATION DRILLING IN THOSE AREAS SHOWING  
FAVORABLE RESULTS AND VERIFICATION OF CERTAIN KNOWN NEARSHORE  
RESERVES WITH LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING A VIABLE  
OFFSHORE DREDGING INDUSTRY IN TENASSERIM. PROJECT DURATION IS  
THREE YEARS; UNDP CONTRIBUTION ESTIMATED AT \$1,257,300 FOR EXPERTS'  
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SERVICES AND \$948,000 FOR EQUIPMENT.  
COMMENT: (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) UN EXPERTS WORKING ON PAST PROJECT  
SAID NO NEW OFFSHORE COMMERCIAL DEPOSITS WERE FOUND DURING ENTIRE  
SPAN OF PREVIOUS PROJECT, BUT THEY FELT ALL GEOLOGICAL CONDITONS  
INDICATE THAT LARGE DEPOSITS SHOULD EXIST OFFSHORE. RECENT ISSUE  
OF BUSINESS REVIEW, A MONTHLY TRADE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN BANGKOK,  
IDENTIFIES OFFSHORE TENASSERIM AREA AS HAVING "POSSIBLY THE  
LARGEST VIRTUALLY UNTAPPED TIN FIELD IN THE WORLD". HOWEVER,  
DESPITE THEIR OPTIMISM ABOUT GEOLOGICAL PROSPECTS, UN EXPERTS  
COMPLAINED THAT POOR SECURITY CONDITIONS, LACK OF TRAINED PER-  
SONNEL AND OFTEN LACK OF GUB COOPERATION GREATLY HAMPERED THEIR  
EFFORTS IN THE FIELD.  
INCLUDED AMONG EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED ARE WATER VEHICLES (\$277,  
000), MOTOR VEHICLES (\$44,000), DRILLING EQUIPMENT (\$423,000),  
GEOLOGICAL/GEOPHYSICAL EQUIPMENT (\$73,000), RADIO COMMUNICATION  
EQUIPMENT (\$27,500) AND SURVEYING/DRAFTING MATERIAL (\$60,500).  
THIS SHOULD OPEN SALES POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. SUPPLIERS OF THIS  
TYPE OF EQUIPMENT.

11. GUB RAISES INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS (UNCLASSIFIED)  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1 INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS IN BURMA  
WERE RAISED FROM 3.5 PERCENT TO 6 PERCENT. RATES FOR 12 YEAR  
SAVINGS CERTIFICATES ALSO RAISED ACCORDINGLY. (RANGOON 855)  
COMMENT: PREVIOUS LOW INTEREST RATE DISCOURAGED PRIVATE SAVINGS  
ESPECIALLY IN RECENT YEARS OF HIGH INFLATION. CHANGE RESULTED  
FROM IMF PRODDING AND WAS ONE OF THE REFORMS GUB PROMISED TO  
INTRODUCE WHEN IT REACHED STAND-BY ARRANGEMENT WITH IMF LAST

NOVEMBER.

12. LASH SHIPPING AT KYAUKPYU (UNCLASSIFIED)

GREEN VALLEY, A LASH SHIP, IS SCHEDULED TO DISCHARGE BARGES THIS WEEK IN DEEP WATER OFF KYAUKPYU. BARGES WILL THEN BE TOWED TO CHITTAGONG.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED): BURMA PORTS CORPORATION HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING KYAUKPYU AS TRANS-SHIPMENT PORT FOR LASH SERVICE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT THIS IS FIRST SUCH OPERATION TO OCCUR. KYAUGYU IS WELL SUITED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SHELTERED DEEP SEA ANCHORAGE. IT IS ONLY ALL-WEATHER ANCHORAGE WITH SUFFICIENT DEPTH OF WATER THROUGHOUT ENTIRE COASTLINE OF BURMA. KYAUKPYU ALSO FAVORABLY LOCATED AS PORT OF TRANSIT FOR CALCUTTA AND CHITTAGONG. BURMESE INVESTMENT TO DEVELOP FACILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SMALL (MAIN COST: THREE TUGS) AND PORT COULD GENERATE CONSIDERABLE INCOME FROM SALE OF SERVICES.

13. U.S. BOOK EXHIBIT DRAWS CROWDS (UNCLASSIFIED)

USIS-SPONSORED EXHIBIT, "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REFERENCE WORKS", CLOSED AFTER SUCCESSFUL TWELVE-DAY RUN AT INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE. NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FREQUENT STORIES AND PICTURES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS INSPECTING THE BOOKS. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NE WIN'S EXAMPLE, FOUR MINISTERS AND MANY DEPARTMENT HEADS TOURED EXHIBIT. ALTOGETHER, NEARLY 80,000 PERSONS VISITED THE EXHIBIT, MANY OF WHOM SPENT HOURS STUDYING REFERENCE WORKS UNAVAILABLE IN BURMA. THE EXHIBIT IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN MANDALAY APRIL 21.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** JOINT WEEKA #12  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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